Playing For Keeps

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Playing For Keeps

by TigerPrawn

Summary

Tonny takes his baby and runs away to start life over with the Meyerist movement.

Part 7 of the Plaything Series and a direct sequel to Part 4 "Roleplay"

It had been months since Tonny had been with an alpha.

Alphas plural, actually, and just that once. It had awoken something in him that they surely realised. One of them, Adam, had pretended to be an omega and Tonny had tried so hard at first to cling to that as a rationalisation of what he was doing. Of what he was feeling.

But as he fucked, and *was* fucked, by an alpha it became harder to deny the truth.

The desire he'd felt all his life. And now he had realised it, he fucking wanted it. He wanted it so bad. All of it.

Sex, a relationship. He even wanted someone who he could raise his kid with since that stupid fucking mistake had left him with the only good thing he had going for him.

But how the fuck did he do that? He had no idea where to start. And what would happen if he did? He hadn't exactly been in a great line of work back in Copenhagen, not a good group of people. He shuddered, not even wanting to think what they might have done to him if they'd found out he liked alphas. What his dad would…

Tonny didn't let the thoughts take hold. That was all behind him at least.

He had started looking into ways to escape since he became a dad. He was raised into this fucking life and would be damned if he did that to his own kid. Now he'd moved them across the world to the US, but he needed something more. Greater protection, a community that they could disappear into.

And that's when he'd seen the flyers for Meyerism, for their community and church.

They needed to be safe, so he went from one closetted life to another. The Meyerists seemed like good people, but he wasn't going to rock the boat. As much as he wanted to finally be free to explore his sexuality, now was not the time. Now was the time to think of his kid.

Six Months Later

"Hi Tonny!" One of the women walked by and held up her hand in greeting, he nodded to her and smiled. She had her toddler with her and was coming from the communal childcare

facility where little Jack spent his day whilst Tonny worked around the small Meyerist town. Mostly doing handiwork, and now and then learning some carpentry. He was building a life for them here and he actually felt safe.

He had never felt safe before in his entire life, he realised. He'd grown up scared of his dad, then scared of the life he had been led into. It was all so deep rooted. During his unburdening sessions it had been clear that honesty was helpful, he had told them everything. Almost everything.

He was less specific on the way his dad had died, only to say he killed the man in self defence. Which, in some ways, was the truth. Not just in his defence, but everyone else who his dad could kill with the snap of his fingers.

They appreciated his honesty and quickly he was under the wing of several people. A couple of older guys gave him work and showed him how to do things, teaching him a trade. Some of the women, especially the alpha ones, seemed to have a soft spot for him as a single dad.

And then there was Cal.

Tonny let out a breath just thinking about the alpha.

He heard a lot about Cal before he even met him, at first, hearing lots about him at the outreach centre. It wasn't until he took Jack for dinner in the small Meyerist town with some of the residents, that he even saw him. At a distance, as he greeted a few of them arriving.

Then Tonny had moved to the town and attended his first sermon at the church there.

And it was all he could do not to get hard. Cal was just so magnetic and just so… pure. He was so different to everyone Tonny had ever known. Strong and commanding like many alphas he had known back in the seedy underbelly of Copenhagen. But unlike them, he was also gentle, kind. He was charming and made you feel like the only person in the world when his attention was on you.

Tonny longed for that sort of attention, and the few conversations they'd had were never long enough.

"Dadda!" Jack reached for him as he approached, one of the omega ladies that worked there had him in her arms and she wore a huge smile.

"Such a lovely little thing," she told Tonny as she handed the baby over. Tonny couldn't help but smile in return. He was a good kid, one he was determined to raise in every possible way better than his own sorry excuse for a father.

They made small talk for a few minutes, mostly about how Tonny was getting on with working around the town, and then he started home. They had initially been set up in a communal living situation but were quickly moved into a little cabin that had perhaps once been more of a holiday shack for someone. But it was perfect, a little place of their own on the outskirts near the forest, plenty of fresh air and wide open spaces for Jack to grow up in. So very far removed from the cold, grey and smokey life in Copenhagen.

As soon as he got home he set Jack into his playpen and started making dinner only to be interrupted by a knock at the door. That was pretty unusual unless someone needed urgent help with something. A couple of times he'd been asked to come along and help out with an emergency burst pipe or something where more hands were needed, as unskilled as his might be.

Tonny wiped his hands and opened the door as he pushed the tea towel over his shoulder.

"Hi Tonny," Cal's voice was a warm purr that made Tonny shiver.

"Um, Cal. What are, um… come in…" he stepped aside to let in his unexpected guest, only then realising Sarah was behind him.

He tried to hide his wince, but went immediately to Jack, picking him up and holding him close. This really was an unexpected visit and his mind went to the worst.

"I'm so sorry," Sarah said, stepping forward, "we should have called first. Please, don't be concerned." The female alpha put her hands up to placate him but it had the opposite effect and that much was obvious.

"Sarah's right. We should have, this is very rude of us. Perhaps we can talk tomorrow?"

"No!" Tonny immediately interjected. Whatever it was they needed to say or do, he needed it to be now, not have to wait overnight. "Are you kicking us out?"

Sarah's eyes went wide and Cal shook his head, guilt and pity in his expression.

"Nothing like that," he reassured as he stepped forward and placed his hand on Tonny's arm. "I just wanted to have a chat with you in private and Sarah offered to take Jack, if you're amenable."

"No," Tonny replied without thinking, holding the baby closer to him.

"We've shaken your trust, that was not what we wanted at all." Cal said as he squeezed his arm gently. Tonny's instincts warred, knowing he should shake off the alpha but at the same time desperately not wanting to lose his touch.

"It's still light out," Sarah said, pointing back to the still open door. "Why don't you both sit on the porch and I will go play with Jack out on the grass. That way you can speak privately but still see that Jack is safe."

Tonny took a few moments to consider, and it was another soft squeeze of his arm that had him agreeing.

"For ten minutes, that's all." Tonny replied gruffly, slipping all too easily back into the man he had been in Denmark.

"No problem," Sarah smiled and grabbed a few toys from the playpen before going to Tonny and waiting expectantly. It was a minute before he moved Jack into her arms. The happy little

kid had become used to being passed around in this place and was more than happy to be the object of someone's full attention.

They all moved outside and Cal took a seat on the porch steps, watching as Sarah moved off just far enough to be out of earshot, and then sat down in the grass with the baby.

Tonny initially followed his instincts and remained standing, just in case he needed to go retrieve Jack. But when Cal looked up at him, he clenched his jaw and sat next to him on the step, drawn to the alpha.

"You're not kicking us out?" Tonny asked for reassurance.

"Should we be?" Cal replied, a little smile tugging at his lips. "Is there anything you haven't been honest about that we should know about?"

Tonny's stomach dropped and his mind flashed to his father, the way he had looked by the time Tonny had finished with him.

"If you ask me to leave," Tonny growled, his heart in his throat and each word aching, "please can Jack stay? He needs a good life, and if I'm not the one to give him that--"

Cal stopped him with a hand on his knee.

"We're not going to ask you to leave." Cal replied quietly, "and I'm sorry, truly sorry for the concern we have caused you this evening. You've become such a part of the community here that it's easy to forget the life you've come from, what you've told us of it. We should have been more thoughtful about approaching you." He turned to face Tonny full on then, and Tonny mirrored the action, "please forgive me?"

Tonny's mouth ran dry and he stilled, hoping that Cal's hand stayed on his knee but went no further, given that his dick had started to throb against his thigh.

He gave a curt nod and Cal continued.

"Something has been playing on my mind, about your unburdening. I reviewed the tapes and, I think I'm right in saying that whilst you might not have lied, you didn't give the full truth."

"I can't remember what I said, it was months ago," Tonny deflected, at which Cal chuckled.

"Don't deflect. We want to help you Tonny, help you fulfil your potential, but we can only do that if you're completely honest."

Silence fell between them as they both watched Sarah and Jack play in the afternoon light.

"How about I let you think about it?" Cal finally said. "I can come back later. Once Jack is asleep." When Tonny didn't respond Cal added, "what time does he go to bed."

Tonny replied automatically, "he usually sleeps after his nighttime feed, an hour after his dinner. I'm just peeling the potatoes now."

Cal nodded and squeezed Tonny's knee before letting go and standing up, "I'll be back in three hours."

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By the time Cal returned, Tonny was on edge. Despite being reassured that they weren't getting kicked out, Tonny couldn't help but be worried. He had to make sure Jack was safe, even if that was without him. If he had to leave here and live in squalor, or even return to Copenhagen, he could do it as long as he knew that Jack was safe.

Cal knocked lightly and Tonny took a step to open the door he had already been pacing in front of.

"Sorry to come by so late," Cal seemed a little hesitant.

"It's alright," Tonny said as he opened the door and Cal stepped in. "He's a heavy sleeper, out like a light."

Cal smiled fondly at him and Tonny felt that smile in his chest. There really was something so enigmatic about the alpha. He wasn't like anyone Tonny had ever met before, and he couldn't help but wonder what it would be like to know him better.

Cal closed the door gently behind him before Tonny led the way to the small sofa and they sat next to each other.

"Would you like a drink or something?" Tonny asked, remembering his manners. Cal shook his head, turning in the seat so that they faced each other completely and knees brushed together.

"It's alright," Cal lifted his hands in placation, and Tonny hadn't realised how nervous he must have looked. "You're safe here, as I said, there is just something… I didn't feel that you unburdened absolutely everything. Will you do so now?"

Tonny sucked in a breath, shuddering. He didn't want to tell anyone the full story about his dad and his full involvement in his death. He didn't want the good people here to judge him on those actions, actions driven by terror.

"I need you to tell me, Tonny." Cal said softly, placing his hand on Tonny's leg as he had done earlier.

Tonny shivered and the words fell out, his accent thick thanks to his emotions.

"I need Jack to be safe. I don't want him to grow up scared. I'm scared everyday. I've been scared everyday since I was old enough to know I should be. Even before the first time I saw my dad beat my mum, I knew to be scared. And everyday in that life, being his son made no difference. My dad… he was a monster. I was so scared--"

Before he could continue, Cal squeezed his leg and shushed him gently.

“It’s alright. You’re safe here. You can be honest.” Cal told him. Tonny felt his cheeks hot with silent tears. The words were just behind his teeth, trying to push out. He was on the verge of confessing to killing his father when Cal continued. “I know your secret, Tonny.”

Tonny drew in a sharp breath, his whole body shaking as a deep fear gripped him.

“I know you prefer alphas.” Cal told him quietly, “I know, because…”

Cal stopped and Tonny started to catch his breath, not realising he’d been holding it. Was that the secret Cal had meant?

Something he had been so terrified of anyone ever knowing in Copenhagen and yet here, in this place with these people, perhaps it would be okay?

“It’s not something,” Tonny started, “I couldn’t tell anyone. Could never find anyone… to be with. To be with me. To want to be with me, as something more…” Tonny babbled, as loneliness stabbed in his chest.

Cal gave him a reassuring smile and another squeeze, though there was hesitation there. “Have you ever… been with an alpha?”

Tonny swallowed, his heart thundering as he nodded slowly. Remembering that one amazing night with Adam and his boyfriend, the night that made him realise he needed to change his entire life or he would die miserable, and soon.

“How was it?” Cal asked, a casual question it seemed, which Tonny answered automatically.

“Fine. Good, it was…” he couldn’t articulate. The night *had* been amazing, but it had only been that one night. “I haven’t found anyone who likes me…”

Cal shook his head, “You’ll find someone who likes you, you’re beautiful. Not just outside,” Cal quickly clarified, “inside. You’re bursting with light.” Cal chuckled, and the way he looked at Tonny had him believing those words.

“I had sex that one time, with an alpha.” Tonny felt the need to add. “Just that once.”

“Oh yeah?” Cal quirked a brow.

“Two, actually. There were two of them,” Tonny continued, not missing how Cal was breathing a little heavier. “They took really good care of me.” After he said them, Tonny realised the words might be flirtatious, and he didn’t pull them back, but really he had meant to convey his gratitude to the alphas and the role they had played in his life.

All the same, Cal swallowed audibly and through heavy breaths, asked, “How?”

Tonny was instantly hard. Not just at the memories, but at Cal’s reaction, and his own responding reaction. Was this how Cal knew? Cal liked alphas too, and could see that in Tonny?

Tonny locked eyes with Cal, trying to read him.

“They uh, one of them wanted to pretend to be an omega, but when I fucked him, I could feel how alpha he was, how he squeezed me.”

Another shuddering breath from Cal and he started to move, adjusting himself. At first Tonny thought he’d grown hard and was just trying to get comfortable, but then he heard the belt buckle and zipper.

Cal looked at him expectantly, waiting for more as he drew his thick cock out of his pants and began to slowly stroke. Tonny reached forward, but Cal shook his head and went to bat his hands away.

Maybe he needed time? Tonny sat back.

“I knew then, that it was right - the way I felt.” Tonny continued as Cal gazed into his eyes and pumped himself slowly. “He felt so good, even the scent of him through the omegan scent he’d put on.”

“What else?” Cal panted, trembling.

“The second alpha, he… he fucked me, knotted me. That was when my whole life changed. I felt him stretching me, locking inside me, like I was always supposed to take a knot.” Tonny kept on as Cal pumped harder, breathing hard breaths through his nose.

“I still ache for it, for a knot inside me. After just that once, I know I need more. I need to be fucked and knotted.”

Cal let out a series of quiet grunts as he spilled over his hand.

They watched each other for a moment, and then, still shuddering, Cal was tucking himself away.

“Thank you, Tonny.” Cal tried to regain composure. “I appreciate you sharing your experiences. You’ve become a valued member of the community and knowing that you have now fully unburdened shows how deep your commitment goes.”

Cal stood and started back towards the door, leaving Tonny momentarily stunned, and achingly hard. *Too* stunned to react when the alpha left and closed the door softly behind him.

*

The following few days were strained and strange. Tonny went about his work, not feeling as settled and at home as he once had. Except in those few moments where he would see Cal and they would exchange a furtive glance. In those moments, those glances, it was as though that evening hadn’t happened. It was like a reset button and all he saw was a charming and attractive alpha giving him his attention.

He was sure that Cal wanted him too, that he didn’t just see his own longing reflected. But he couldn’t play these games, he couldn’t be so close to something and… feel used. Every time they looked away, the memories of that evening came back and Tonny felt like shit all over again.

When he was with the two alphas before it had been a mutual thing, all three of them had gotten something out of it. But what happened with Cal left him feeling discarded.

Several people commented on his dwindling enthusiasm, some were concerned he might be unwell. And each of them suggested he seek out Cal for some spiritual guidance.

And the truth was, as much as he wanted to seek him out and be in his company. To *feel* what he had felt with him before, Tonny couldn't do it. The old him, back in Copenhagen and before Jack, would have done. Back then he hadn't really known how to get away from people like his father and other criminals, other users.

He couldn't do it anymore.

That became all the more apparent when he picked Jack up from nursery to find Cal was there waiting for him, a concerned look on his face.

"Hi Tonny, can we talk?" Cal asked, in front of the few other parents that had arrived at the same time. They all politely averted their eyes, but there was no way for them not to hear even if they wanted to.

Tonny huffed and picked up Jack. He walked to the door and Cal followed, placing a gentle hand on his shoulder as they got outside.

"Several people have raised concerns that you might not be happy here." Cal said, no hesitation. No hint in his gaze that he knew exactly why Tonny was unhappy.

"I want to get transferred. To another community." The words were out before Tonny could stop them. He had been thinking this over for so long that the words were immediate. At first he'd considered just leaving, running away. But then he thought of Jack and how good this place was for them, and he didn't want to lose that. He set his jaw, firm. He added with a confidence he would not have had a year or more earlier, "Whatever this game is, I'm not playing it."

For a moment something passed over Cal's expression. And then he nodded, a curt all-business nod.

"I will look into it for you."

*

Tonny hadn't expected Cal to turn up on his doorstep that night. Drunk.

As soon as he opened the door, Cal was talking, "you can't go. I don't want you to go."

Tonny sighed and let him in, closing the door quietly, though Jack was fast asleep.

"Don't," Tonny growled, proud of himself for standing up to Cal. "You got what you wanted, and I already told you, I'm not playing games."

Cal's eyes were wet, and Tonny realised he was trembling. Whether from emotion or alcohol, Tonny wasn't sure.

"You can't be here like this," Tonny huffed, softening a little towards the alpha. "I don't want intoxicated people around Jack."

Cal nodded, tears brimming at his eyes now.

"I had to… needed to have a drink… I've been so good. But I had to," Cal shook his head and Tonny huffed again.

"Come back tomorrow. Or…" He took in a breath and let it out with a sigh, not wanting to be a pushover like he might have had to be in the past, but equally not wanting Cal to leave. "Lie down in my room, sleep it off."

"With you?" Cal asked, his eyes full of longing.

Tonny swallowed.

Minutes later they found themselves stretched out on Tonny's bed, on top of the covers and facing each other. Tonny was sure it was the most intimate he'd ever been with anyone in his life, including the mother of his child.

"Last time…" Tonny started as Cal closed his eyes but didn't sleep. "You just came here and got what you wanted and then left. You can't do that."

"I'm sorry," Cal muttered, and the words seemed genuine.

Tonny shook his head. "Sorry, isn't what I need. Don't you… Fuck Cal, you knew what I'd been through. You saw my tapes. You know how I spent my whole life having to hide and being used and being fucking scared, and then you did *that*."

"Easy to lose our way, to be distracted by our egos, our desires, our anger, and fears, and forget what we're meant to do, and by forgetting, we hurt others." Cal reeled off what was essentially a longer apology, but meaningless without actions.

There was a deafening silence before Tonny replied, "How fucking dare you."

Cal trembled and let out a shaky breath, silent tears falling down his cheeks, his eyes squeezed tight shut.

"You're right. Sorry isn't enough. And the way I've treated you… I don't… I don't have an excuse."

"But you have a reason," Tonny prompted, knowing from his own experience that people didn't just fuck others up this way without reason. Even if that reason was being pure fucking evil like his dad. But he was sure, for Cal that wasn't the case. There was something else going on.

“I do.” Cal replied and for a moment Tonny thought he was going to leave it there but then he continued, his eyes open but not meeting Tonny’s. “I’m attracted to alphas. And it’s crazy, because I know deep down that I would be accepted here. That no one would care. But…” he opened his eyes to look at Tonny then, full of despair. “I was abused. As a child. By someone I trusted, an alpha. And for the longest time I’ve tried to fight this attraction. How can I be attracted to alphas after what he did? How can I want to touch one or be touched after what he did to me? Or is what he did to me the reason I like alphas? I’m disgusting, sick.”

“You’re not,” Tonny growled, reaching out and putting his hand on Cal’s shoulder. “You’re not disgusting. Who you are attracted to has nothing to do with him. What he did was wrong, you’re not wrong. There’s nothing wrong with who you are attracted to.”

With a little sob Cal pushed forward and pressed their mouths together, taking a quick kiss before Tonny gently pushed him away.

“Cal,” he admonished. “We can’t. Not like this, everything is so raw for you and you’re drunk. Sleep it off. Things might seem different in the morning.”

Cal let out a slight sob but then nodded.

“Will you stay with me?” he asked, a tremor of fear in his voice.

Tonny nodded.

*

When Tonny woke the next morning, he wasn’t sure Cal would still be there. But he was, and their legs were entwined, with Tonny spooning against Cal’s back.

He savoured the sensation until he heard Jack grumbling and got up to see to him. By the time Jack was fed and dressed, ready for his day, Cal was still deep in sleep and Tonny was loath to wake him. Instead he let him sleep and continued on, taking Jack to nursery and then sending a message to the guys he worked with to let them know he wouldn’t make it until later today. He wasn’t terribly happy about that, he was proud to be working and have a job that meant something, but it was a community effort, not a rigid timetabled job. He worked and in return got some money to get by and a free place to stay. He wasn’t about to take advantage of that, but he also wasn’t going to tell them that it was because of Cal.

By the time he got back, the bed was empty. Tonny was sure that was probably for the best, but all the same relief washed over him when he heard the shower.

When Cal emerged with a towel around his waist, they gazed at each other.

“How are you feeling?” Tonny finally asked.

“Not hungover, thankfully.” Cal said, trying for a slight smile, then he added, “ashamed.”

Tonny sucked in a breath and let it out slowly. “There’s no need for that. I understand, Cal. I know what it’s like to be terrified of being who you are. But I can’t play games. Whatever this is or was between us, it ends now or I leave.”

Cal nodded. “You’re right, I’m too messed up to try to start anything with anyone.”

Tonny frowned and shook his head, “I didn’t mean you and I have to end. I meant the games. If I stay and you want to explore this thing between us, then we can do that. But I won’t be here for you to use, to play games with. I can’t, and you can’t ask that.”

Cal nodded, “I shouldn’t have treated you that way. And… I do want to see where this can go. No games.” Cal agreed.

Two Months Later

“Alpha…” Tonny sighed as Cal pressed inside him.

They’d been public about their dating, and it had happily resulted in several babysitting offers. As great as Cal was with Jack and how amazing their time was together, they really did need some time alone.

And this was it, their first time beyond mouths and hands and passionate touches. Jack was at Sarah’s house for the night, and Tonny was spread out on Cal’s big bed.

He’d never dreamed he could have this life. But he had found someone who was as damaged as he was, and together they could be whole, be themselves.

Cal’s forehead came to rest against his own as Cal groaned with pleasure. “So tight,” he muttered.

Tonny hummed and clenched a little, drawing a gasp from Cal before he finally started to pull back and push in again. Not thrusts, but gentle slides into Tonny’s eagerly prepared body.

Tonny took Cal’s face between his hands and peppered him with soft kisses, before their lips met in a soft press. His heart ached from being so full.

He had loved every minute with Adam and his boyfriend, but this was different and something he thought he’d never have. This was tender and loving. *He* was tender and loving. He was allowed to be, allowed to show that gentle side of himself and not be the thug his father had made him into.

They rocked together, Tonny’s hard cock caught between them and leaking with the friction, his knot was swelling and he reached to put a fist around it, just squeezing it gently as Cal continued to move inside him. Slowly, the movements became thrusts, but still so tender and gentle, their lips locked together in an unending kiss as Cal’s own knot started to press against his rim.

Cal broke the kiss with a moan, burying himself deep and circling his hips, feeling his knot kiss against Tonny’s rim.

“You can,” Tonny told him. “It’s okay. It won’t hurt… It’s a good kind of pain.”

Cal nodded, a little unsure but kept moving his hips all the same. Tonny gave him plenty of encouragement with gasps and moans until they were both rocking together and Cal was

sliding in and out of him, his knot pressing harder each time until finally--

“Ughhhhnnnffff,” Tonny cried out as Cal pushed all the way inside, letting out a sharp cry of his own. And Tonny knew how it felt, that tightness unlike any omega, slightly dry and less elastic, but it gave nonetheless. Letting the alpha in until he was locked inside Tonny and they were both coming hard and trembling as they panted against each other.

“So good,” Tonny muttered against Cal’s mouth, swallowing his sighs.

He felt the dampness of tears against his cheek as Cal began to cry. Tonny pulled him close and held him tight.

He knew he could tell Cal anything now and that it would never stop them from loving each other. Tonny resolved that in the morning he would tell Cal the full truth of what happened with his dad. No more secrets, no more games. Tonny was playing for keeps and he knew Cal was too.

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